

SUSTAINABILITY

What is Sustainability?

In simple terms sustainability is about providing for our needs without compromising the abilities of future generations of meeting their needs. In essence this is a lifestyle which can be sustained for the foreseeable future. Currently, we are not living this way, and the problem continues to deepen, which carries risks.

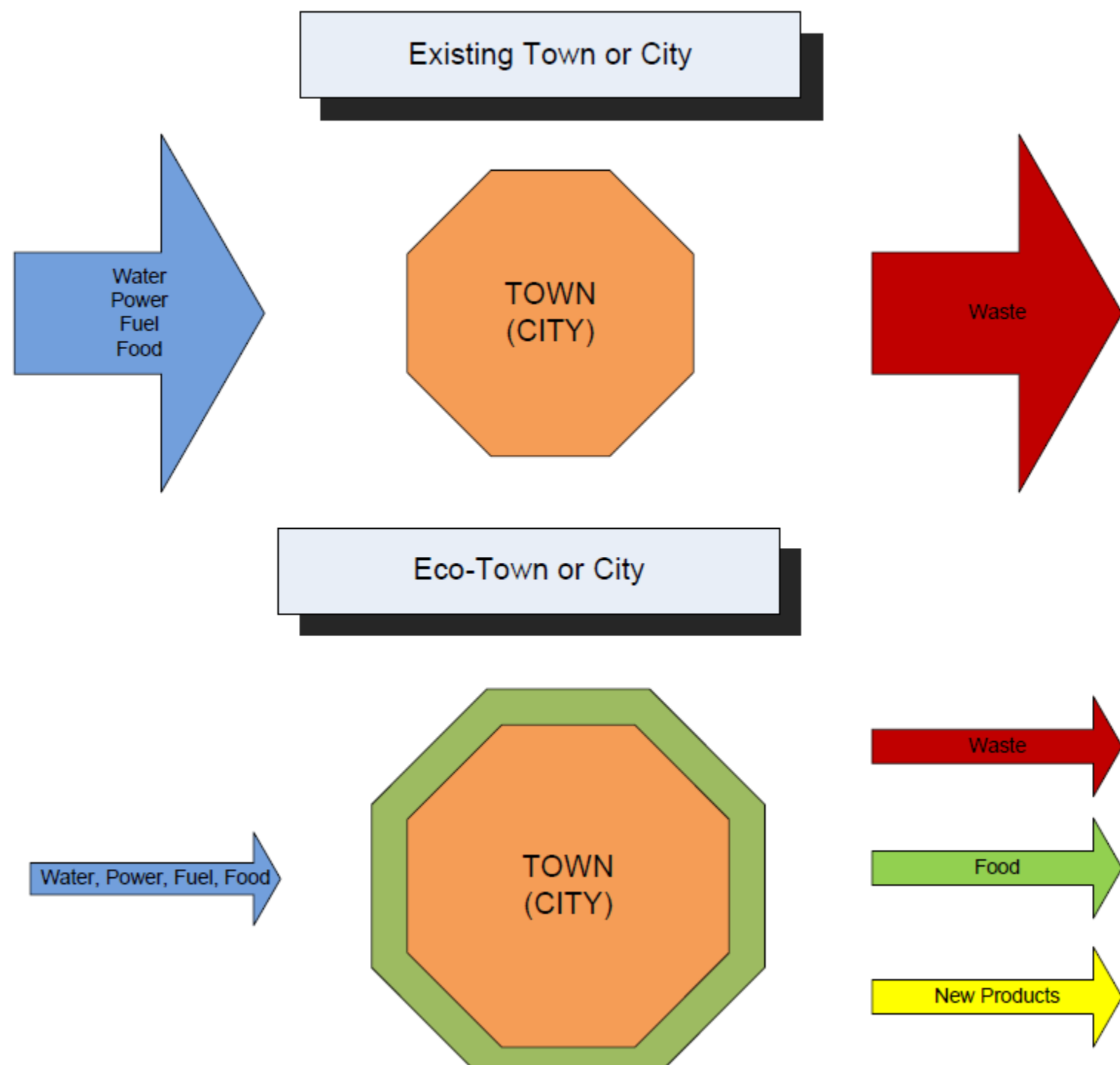
Sustainable Development
***Development that meets the
needs of the present
without compromising the
ability of future generations
to meet their needs.***

AN EXAMPLE

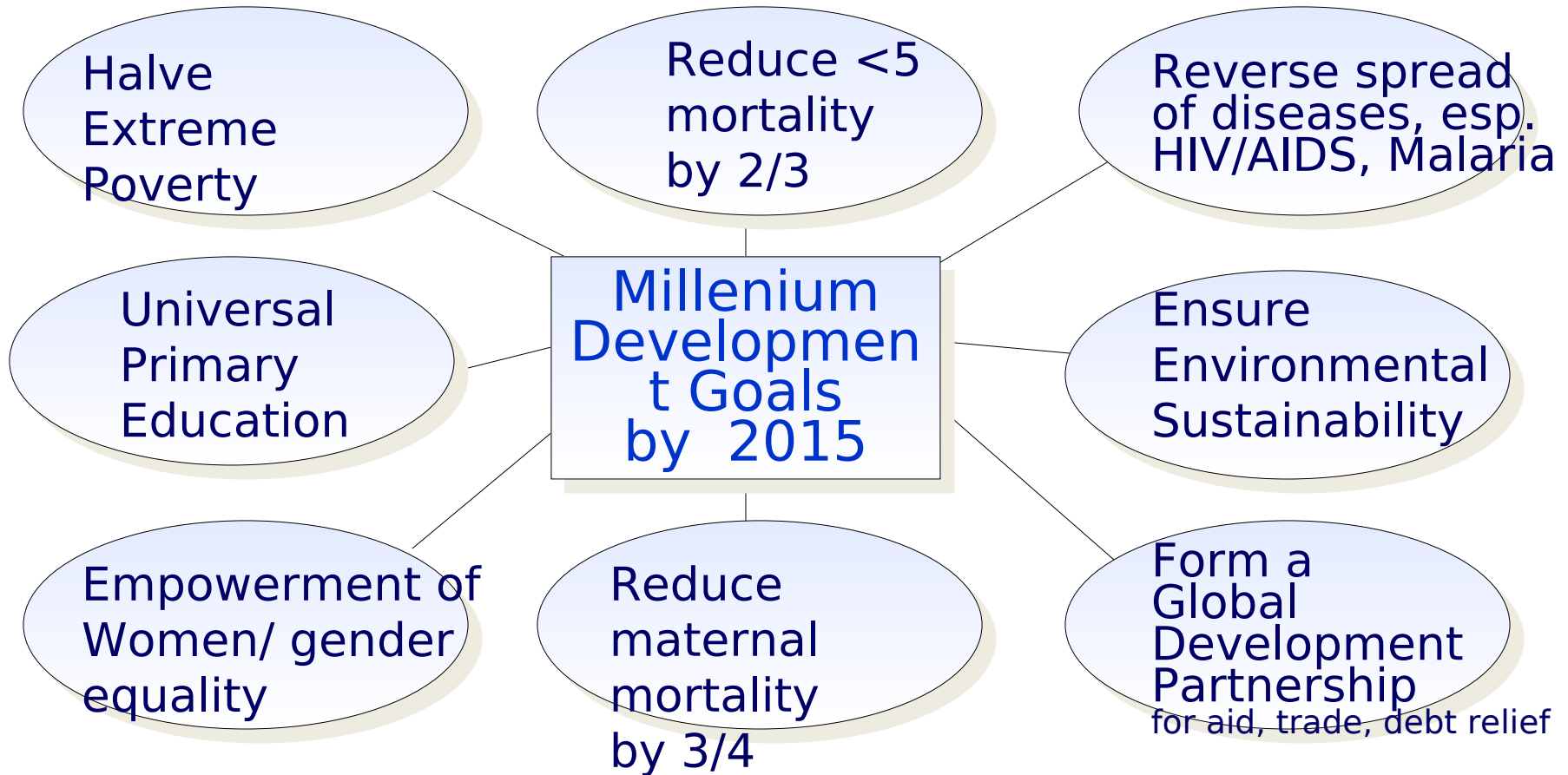
Ecotowns for Asia – An Application of Sustainable Technology

An affordable sustainable town can now be built that will recycle its own water, grow its basic food needs, generate its own power, and manage all the forms of waste. It will also recover energy from the waste, generate compost (fertilizer) for the agri/aquaculture, thus reducing the need for eco-toxic fertilizers. A sustainable town would also centralize general utility requirements, which would drastically reduce the pressure on centralised resources such as electricity, water and fuel.

This needs to be implemented in a way that is also socially sustainable and has a sense of place.



World goals



2002 The World Summit on Sustainable Development...

27% coral reefs
Seriously threatened
(up from 10%)

2.8 billion living
on < \$2/day)

1.1 billion lack
clean water

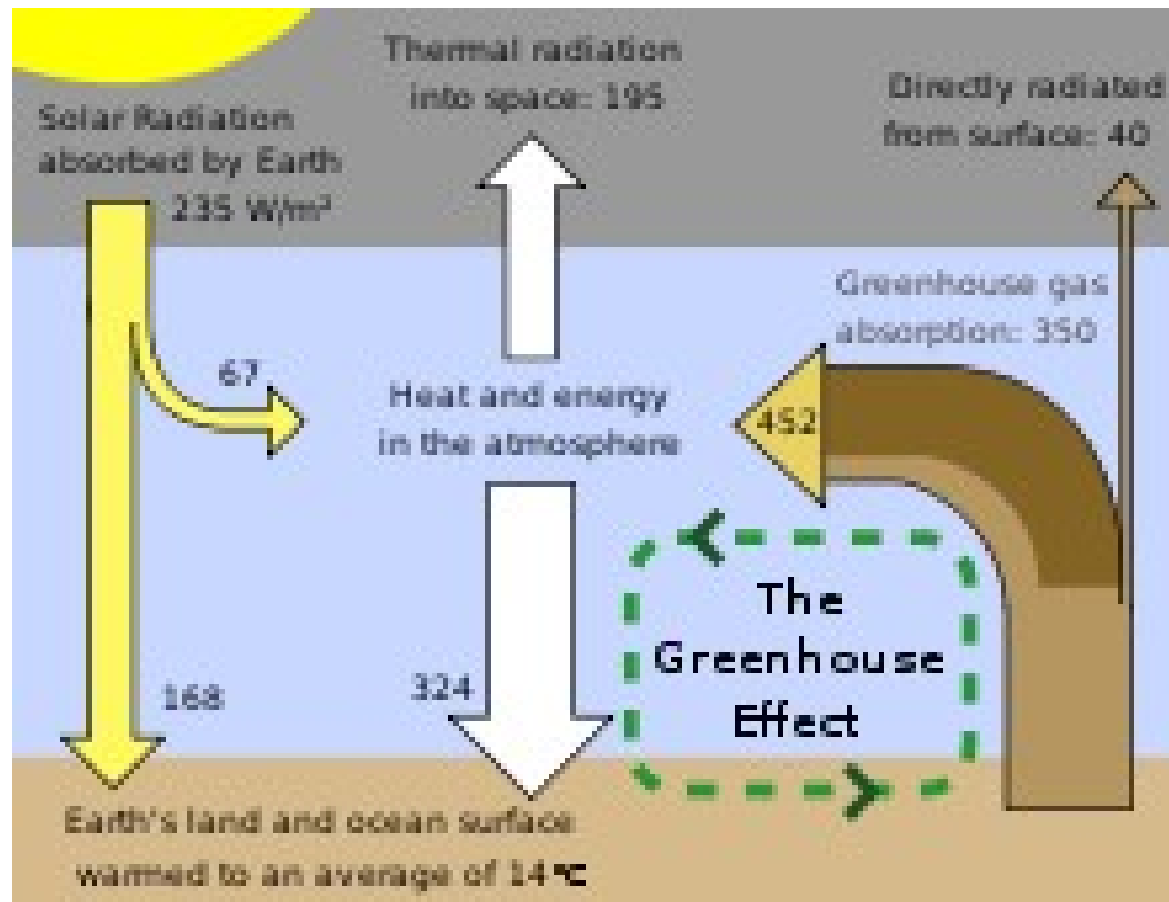
Extinctions
on the rise

10 years after Rio
Declining indicators

6 million children
died from hunger
In 10 years

Greenhouse gas
emissions up 9%

Growing gap
between rich & poor



A schematic representation of the exchanges of energy between outer space, the Earth's atmosphere, and the Earth's surface. The ability of the atmosphere to capture and recycle energy emitted by the Earth surface is the defining characteristic of the greenhouse effect.

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014



Approved by
UN Gen. Assy.
2002

UNESCO:
appointed lead
UN agency

“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract -- sustainable development -- and turn it into a reality for all the world's people.”

Kofi Annan, UNSC, 2001

1. Promotion and improvement of basic education;

2. Reorienting existing education at all levels to address sustainable development;

Action Areas

3. Developing public understanding and awareness of sustainability;

4. Training the workforce with knowledge and skills to perform their work in a sustainable



Key Themes...

Sustainable
Production
& Consumption

Fresh Water
Management

Biodiversity

Conservation &
Protection



Key Themes (cont'd)...



Health
Promotion

Human
Rights



Peace & Int'l
Understanding

Imp. of Info . &
Comm. Technology
for ESD



Gender
Equality

Poverty
Alleviation



National Initiatives

US Partnership
for the DESD

Japan Council
on the DESD

German National
Committee for
the DESD

Others forming:
Portugal, Greece, Sweden,
the Philippines, India, etc.

US Partnership for the Decade

VISION:

Education for Sustainable Development
integrated into education and learning
in the U.S.

MISSION:

Leverage the UN Decade to foster
Education for Sustainable Development
in the U.S.

US Partnership for the Decade

...all sectors – higher education, K-12,
business, faith communities, non-profits,
government

...a community-builder, convener,
catalyst and communicator for the
Decade in the United States

[www.uspartnership.
org](http://www.uspartnership.org)

US Partnership for the Decade

“Business
Innovation for
Sustainability”
(October '04)

Living Institutions –
“Today, Tomorrow,
Forever: The Role Living
Institutions Can Play in
DES”
(September '04)

Conferences

Sustainability and
Higher Education
Conference - “Defining
the Vision”
(October '04)

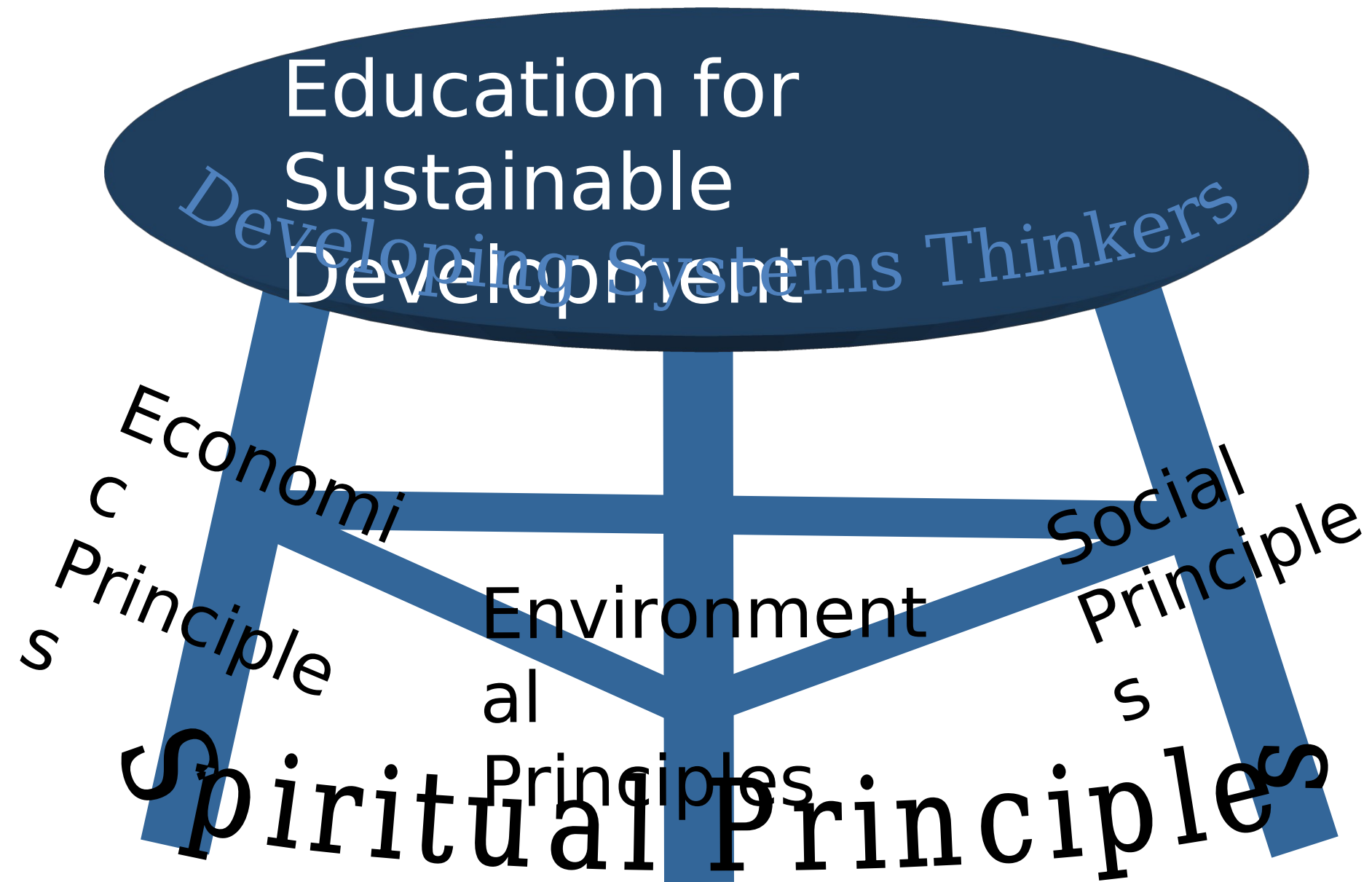
Nat'l Assn. of
Independent Schools –
“Education for Sustainability:
How Far Will You Go?”
(February '05)



Discussio

n

The Sustainability “Stool”



Examples of Spiritual Principles related to sustainability

Economic

Elimination of
extremes of
wealth and
poverty

Work as
worship

Moderation

Be content
w/little

Voluntary
giving

Profit sharing

Social

Equality of
women and men

Elimination of all
forms of prejudice

Unity in diversity

Universal
compulsory
education

Trustworthiness

Environmental

Interdependence
of all life

Nature a
reflection of the
Divine

Humility – Earth
source of all our
wealth

Unity in diversity

Cleanliness

Kindness to
animals

Soloist Thinker

vs.

Whole Systems

Can identify one part of a system

OR
sees no connection between the parts of the system

OR
lives life through a "zoom lens" without benefit of a "wide angle lens"

Makes choices and decisions and takes actions that maximize the health of the whole system upon which the specific parts depend.

Able to work well in diverse groups which enable them to recognize interdependencies in systems

Some areas for combining principles of sustainable development and systems thinking

Personal

Consumption patterns
Water & Energy use
Clothing purchases
Recreation/hobbies
Yard care,
landscaping
Household Cleaning
products
Home purchase
Vacation planning
Family planning
Transportation
choices

Business

Production methods
Energy and water use
Waste disposal
Employee benefits
Stockholder relations

Community

Building a Bahá'í center
Organizing a Bahá'í Feast
Running a Bahá'í
summer school
Conference planning
Devotional program

Simple Systems Map
(Example)

